Export Import Performance Leading to Foreign Exchange Crises

2302. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry are aware that the country's exports are growing at a snail's pace and imports are making quantum jumps and as such a foreign exchange crises will arise; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) : The overall exports registered a growth of 5.4 per cent in doller terms during the first half of 1992-93 as compared to a decline of 6.2 per cent in the same period last year. The growth of exports to GCA countries has been much higher at 12.1 per cent during April-September 1992 as compared to 5.7 per cent in the same period last year. In fact the cummulative rate of growth in exports this year has been accelerating month after month.

With regard to imports, the rate of growth during April-September 1992 has been 22.3 per cent as against a decline of 17.5 per cent in the same period last year. The rise in imports was expected with the lifting of drastic import compression measures imposed in the wake of balance of payments crises of 1990-91 which in turn adversely affected industrial output and inflation. However, even if imports continue to record the same growth for the rest of the year as it did in the first half, the overall imports this year will not reach the level of 1990-91.

The Government does not expect foreign exchange crisis to emerge in the light of the current trends in the exports and imports.

Vacant posts in Nationalised Banks and RBI

2303. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of top bank posts have been lying vacant for several months, in the context of the recent Securities Scam;

(b) if so, the details of such posts lying vacant in different nationalised banks and the RBI for over two months;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in filling these posts; and

(d) what steps have been taken or are being taken to fill in these posts expeditiously ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (d) : The position of Chairman and Managing Director is vacant for over two months in four nationalised banks, viz. Syndicate Bank, Allahabal Bank, Andhra Bank and UCO Bank. As regards Reserve Bank of India, there is one vacancy at the level of Deputy Governor. Government have already initiated necessary steps for filling up these vacancies.

Litigation expenses incurred by Punjab Natioal Bank, Calcutta branches

2304. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the branches of Punjab National Bank within the Regional Office in Calcutta have been pursuing cases against the vehicle owners in order to recover some lawyers fees;

(b) whether in such process the banks have further caused huge expenditure on account of legal charges;

(c) whether repeated complaints and appeals to the bank authorities have not brought out any purposeful results till now;

(d) whether some of such cases are going on for more than eight years; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (e) Punjab National Bank (PNB) have reported that its branches under the Regional Office at Calcutta have neither filed nor are pursuing cases against vehicle owners

in order to recover lawyer's fees. However, a suit was filed by the bank's Dharamtala branches in 1985 for recovery of bank's dues in respect of a vehicle loan. During the pendency of the suit, one of the parties involved came to the bank for settling the dues. However, the terms of compromise have not been complied with. There is also a reported dispute among the parties. The suit is still pending. The borrower/guarantor have not approached the bank for waiver of further recovery of dues. The bank has also clarified that no additional expenditure has been incurred by it on account of legal charges.

Seizure of Gold and Silver

2305. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total quantity and value of gold and silver seized by the Customs and other Government Departments during the year 1991-92 and so far during the current year with details of 10 major cases in terms of value;

(b) what are the rates of rewards for informers and officers for such seizures and total amount paid during the year 1991-92 to officers and informers, separately and what are the names of the first 5 officers who have done commendable job in this regard during the year 1991-92;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to honour and decorate such officers suitably on the pattern of army officers for their outstanding performance and devotion to duty and integrity;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether any complaint of planting informers have come to notice of Government and if so, what action has been taken in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) The quantity and value of gold and silver seized during the financial year 1991-92 and during the current financial year upto 31-10-92 are given in the table below :

1991-92				1992-93 upto 31-10-92			
Gold		Silver		Gold		Silver	
Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)
4645	188.58	188305	138.56	1587	67.90	78787	58.95

The details of major cases are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Informers and government servants are eligible for rewards upto a maximum of Rs. 500 per 10 grams for gold and Rs. 1000 per kg. for silver. The actual reward paid within this ceiling depends upon various factors such as specificity and accuracy of the information, the risk and trouble undertaken, etc. in the case of informers and the risk taken and role played by the individual in the case of Government servants. The total amount of reward given during the financial year 1991-92 was Rs. 29.39 crores (figure provisional). The amount of reward given to informers and officers separately is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. The information regarding the first five officers who have done commendable job in this regard during the year 1991-92 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Presidential Awards of appreciation certificates for distinguished record of service and meritorious service at the risk of life are already being given to